

CONCORDIA COUNCIL ON STUDENT LIFE

Minutes of a Meeting held in Room H-769, Sir George Williams Campus, at 5:15 P.M. on
October 6, 1980

PRESENT: Dr. R. Breen, Chairman; Prof. R. Allison, Mr. D. Arfin, Mr. L. Burogano, Dean B. Counihan, Ms. S. Crompton, Ms. M.E. Diacoumacous, Dr. E. Enos, Dean M. Flynn, Ms. A. Kerby, Prof. J. Macaluso, Mr. R. Philip, Mr. J.A. Sproule, Ms. D. Brundage (Secretary)

ABSENT: Mr. A. Lajoie, Mr. P. Mehta, Mr. J. Revay

GUESTS: Mr. D. Boisvert, Mr. D. Ramsay

Chairman's Remarks

80.10.1.0 The Chairman opened the meeting by pointing out that there could be no question of a quorum requirement for the present meeting since, by the terms of Council's revised mandate, Council would decide its own quorum. This was one of the questions which would be discussed later in the meeting.

80.10.1.1 Introduction of the four Directors and the two staff representatives was made by the Chairman. At his request, the student members then identified themselves. It was noted that one student had still to be appointed by the Graduate Students' Association. Mr. Burogano assured the Chairman that the second graduate student would be appointed and would attend the next meeting.

80.10.1.2 The Chairman then spoke of the work of Council in the coming year. He was, he said, anxious that Council come to grips with the real problems affecting student life on both campuses. In the past, Council has had limited success in this area because of its preoccupation with the student services' budget which he did not regard as the most important job of Council.

It is important, the Chairman stated, that Council not become a private club. He noted that the revised Mandate provided that members of the University community who are not members of Council may be appointed to committees of Council. This is one way of ensuring that as much input as possible is obtained from students with varying interests. Another way would be to insert announcements of Council meetings in the various University media which, the Chairman said, he would arrange for in the future.

Concordia Council on Student Life - Constitution

80.10.2.0 The Chairman noted that all members of Council had received a copy of the revised Mandate. He then read from the section headed "Authority and Mandate", reminding members of the breadth of Council's responsibility. It is important that Council be as creative as possible. The University has not experienced the decrease in enrolment which had been predicted for the last two years and one reason may well be that Concordia is perceived as being alive, malleable and open to innovation. Council can contribute to the enhancement of this perception if it is imaginative and develops creative ideas.

- 80.10.2.1 After some discussion as to whether Council's quorum should be a straight fifty per cent plus one of the membership or should be further refined to provide for equality of members from each of the student and non-student groups, it was MOVED by Dean Flynn and SECONDED by Dr. Enos, as follows:

THAT the quorum for the Concordia Council on Student Life be established as fifty per cent plus one of its membership.

Mr. Philip referred to the experience of the previous Council and said that he felt that requiring the quorum to reflect a division of constituency would not be productive. Council should not assume that an inherent conflict exists between staff and students. Nevertheless, Ms. Crompton said, it is important to the students that equality of representation be maintained. In Prof. Allison's opinion, Ms. Crompton's proposal would create division where there need not be any and would make it more difficult to achieve a quorum and, therefore, to deal with the issues. Mr. Burogano emphasized that each group did, in fact, have different interests and that it would be naive to deny this. The task of Council should be to make these interests coincide which requires that equality of representation be maintained.

- 80.10.2.2 Mr. Burogano then raised the question of which procedural rules would be observed by Council. He MOVED and Mr. Sproule SECONDED, as follows:

THAT the procedural rules to be observed by the Concordia Council on Student Life will be Roberts' Rules of Parliamentary Procedure.

There being no discussion by members, the Chairman called for a vote on the Motion.

MOTION CARRIED.

- 80.10.2.3 Discussion of the quorum continued. Ms. Crompton and Ms. Diacoumacos felt strongly that the quorum should reflect the divisions which are inherent in Council's composition and recognized in the revised Mandate. Ms. Crompton then MOVED and Mr. Burogano SECONDED an AMENDMENT to the original Motion, as follows:

THAT the quorum for the Concordia Council on Student Life be established as fifty per cent plus one of its membership, half of this number representing the student membership and half representing the balance of the membership.

Dean Flynn pointed out that the original Motion falls in line with the type of quorum which has been established for the University Senate, Faculty Councils and the Board of Governors. Messrs. Sproule and Macaluso spoke against the amendment, as did Prof. Allison who enquired as to whether or not the students were concerned that they would not be treated fairly. In his experience, there were very few occasions when voting in the previous Council followed student/non-student lines. Mr. Arfin replied that the students' main concern was to ensure that they would have parity in any decisions that were made. Due to circumstances,

there might be occasions when there will not be sufficient representation from the student group and if an issue vital to student interests were to be discussed, it is conceivable that it could be decided in their absence. Ms. Kerby and Prof. Allison agreed that all Council members have a personal responsibility to attend meetings; however, the question of good faith arises and it is highly unlikely that one constituency would attempt to manipulate decisions from Council without proper representation from the other. A vote on any issue of significance to student members would be deferred in their absence. Finally, Prof. Macaluso supported the original Motion by stating that he sat on Council in order to hear and be heard, not necessarily as a representative of the faculty, but as one who has a sincere desire to be involved in student life.

Mr. Burogano MOVED to call the question of the amendment which, upon division, was CARRIED.

The Chairman read the amendment and asked members to vote. The AMENDMENT was DEFEATED.

The Chairman then read the original MOTION (item 80.10.2.1) which, upon division, CARRIED.

80.10.2.4 In response to Mr. Burogano's request for identification of the members who had voted either for or against the fifty per cent plus one version of the quorum, the Chairman advised that this type of identification could not be made after the fact. A call of the roll should have been requested before the vote was taken.

80.10.2.5 Again in response to Mr. Burogano, the Chairman suggested that members who wished to increase their familiarity with Roberts' Rules of Parliamentary Procedure, refer themselves to the University library.

80.10.2.6 Prof. Allison suggested that it might be wise for Council to arrange an informal meeting of members to be held in the absence of the traditional council table and Roberts' Rules. This would provide an opportunity for different views on student life to be identified in a general way and for members to get to know each other personally.

Student Services' Budget

80.10.3.0 The Chairman reported that there will not be an operating deficit in the current budget year. In fact, an operating surplus in the amount of approximately \$140,000 may well develop. This is because student services will receive more money from the Government of Quebec than was anticipated. Council will need to address the question of allocation of the surplus when further facts from the Treasurer's Office become available. However, the Chairman added, he would not be personally sympathetic to using the surplus to increase the establishment of the various services because, once undertaken, on-going costs are difficult to eliminate.

Reports from Members

- 80.10.4.0 Dr. Enos reported that enrolment in intra-mural programmes on both campuses is higher than it was last year. He also noted that the Vice-Rector has met with Mr. Philip and some progress is being made with regard to showers and changing rooms in the Victoria School facility. As a final note, Dr. Enos added that on the intercollegiate side, the Concordia men's football, men's soccer, women's soccer and women's field hockey teams appear promising.
- 80.10.4.1 Dean Counihan reported that normal activities in the Dean's office on the Loyola Campus had resumed. A very successful Newman Club Conference had been hosted through the Loyola Campus Ministry during the Summer. One problem which is developing, Dean Counihan noted, is the reduction in the amount of lounge space which is available on campus. The Hingston Hall fishbowl has been diverted to another use and, consequently, the Main Lounge in the Campus Centre is experiencing a spillover effect.
- 80.10.4.2 Dean Flynn reported on a mild panic which had occurred on the Sir George Williams Campus with regard to financial aid. Although the deadline for filing applications was September 30, 1980, English forms could not be obtained until early in the month, and the number provided was insufficient to meet the demand. Subsequently, some one hundred and eighty emergency forms had to be obtained. Dean Flynn suggested that the Vice-Rector might find some way to inform the appropriate people in Quebec that this type of situation is not satisfactory to students. Problems that are outstanding on the Sir George Williams Campus, Dean Flynn noted, are the extreme scarcity of study space and the overcrowded and unattractive lounge space, of which H-651 is the prime example.
- 80.10.4.3 Mr. Sproule informed members that Mr. Fred Denton, Associate Director of Guidance, had recently relocated to the Loyola Campus where he is in charge of operations. Mr. Denton will be developing a counselling staff and the reading training programme with a view to bringing them into line with what exists on the Sir George Williams Campus. Another development is that Miss Cathy Brown, formerly Manager of the Loyola Campus branch of the Canada Employment Centre, has been appointed Manager of the Concordia-wide Centre. Miss Brown will divide her time between the two campuses. Unfortunately, Mr. Sproule added, the clerical strike in the civil service is having an adverse affect on the Centre. There has been harrassment on both campuses and because the offices are over-worked, the service is not at its previous standard. This situation will prevail until the strike is over.

Committee Structure

- 80.10.5.0 The Chairman reminded Council that it is responsible for the establishment of its own committees. One obvious example might be a committee to deal with priorities and finance. Dean Flynn observed that there had been some doubt expressed as to the wisdom of leaving budget development in the hands of the Directors. Council might want to consider appointing students to become involved in the budget process at the base. Mr. Sproule pointed out,

however, that such a move might give students access to information which must remain confidential, for instance, with regard to individual salaries. He then went on to suggest that Council might consider the formation of a Steering Committee. Because some student members were absent and the two faculty representatives had left the meeting, Mr. Arfin MOVED that the question of committee structure be deferred for consideration at the next meeting. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Chairman advised that he would submit to members before the next meeting a proposal regarding the composition of possible Priorities and Finance and Steering Committees which would serve as a point of departure for discussion.

- 80.10.6.1 Dean Flynn noted, and Mr. Burogano agreed, that Prof. Allison's suggestion that an informal meeting be held before the next regular meeting of Council was very worthwhile. After some discussion, it was agreed that a simple luncheon would be an appropriate forum for the type of interchange it was hoped would take place. The Chairman agreed to arrange for such a luncheon and to advise members of the details within the next week or two.

Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

- 80.10.7.0 Because the traditional time of Council meetings at 5:15 P.M. on the first Monday of each month was not suitable to the faculty representatives, both of whom had teaching duties at that time, discussion took place as to the most satisfactory alternative. Dean Flynn then MOVED and Dean Counihan SECONDED, as follows:

THAT regular meetings of the Concordia Council on Student Life be held throughout the 1980/81 academic year on the first Monday of each month, at 4:00 P.M.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

There being no further business, it was MOVED by Dean Flynn and UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED that the meeting adjourn at 6:25 P.M.